

OCCURRENCE OF A EUROPEAN SAWFLY ACANTHOLYDA ERYTHROCEPHALA (L.) IN
NEW YORK STATE

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On April 22, 1938, I received from Dr. Albert Hartzell of the Boyce-Thompson Institute several adult sawflies for identification. These insects had been collected several days previously by Mr. C. E. Porter at Scarsdale, New York, who reported a large number of the adults flying about close to some Austrian pines. After receiving the information that it is a pest of conifers in Europe Dr. Hartzell and Mr. Porter returned to the same spot on April 28, but were unable to find any additional specimens.

A search through the literature reveals that this insect was first taken in the United States on May 7, 1925, by F. F. Smith and A. B. Wells who took two specimens, both males, from a nursery at Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Penna.¹ They reported beating the adults from pine and *Cornus* sp. The next record of this insect was that made by Mr. F. A. Soraci² who reported that Mr. C. E. Cobb in mid-June, 1937, noted defoliation of several acres of 5-12 foot red and Austrian pines (*Pinus resinosa* and *Pinus nigra*) in a nursery at Franklin Lakes (Oakland), New Jersey. The larvæ were identified as *Itycorsia zappei* Rohw., but later, after emergence of the adults they were identified as *Acantholyda erythrocephala* (L.). The Division of Forest Insects Laboratory at Morristown, New Jersey, also reported the larvæ as feeding on a 40 foot white pine (*Pinus strobus*) at Convent Station (Morristown) New Jersey. Mr. Soraci states, "since that time, however, the insect has been taken as far south in New Jersey as New Brunswick and as far north as the northern-most corner of the State. Larvæ have also been taken as far east as Alpine in New Jersey."

In so far as I can determine this is the first record of *Acantholyda erythrocephala* (L.) being taken in New York State. The indications are that it is spreading from Philadelphia northward, although this may not be the case. Mr. R. B. Benson of the British Museum kindly confirmed my identification.

¹ Wells, A. B. 1926. Notes on Tree and Shrub Insects in S. E. Pa. Ent. News 37: (no. 8) 254-258.

² Soraci, F. A. 1938. Occurrence of a Sawfly (*Acantholyda erythrocephala* (L.) in New Jersey. Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc., Vol. XLVI: (no. 3) 326.